

**Amendments to the Claims:**

- 1    1. **(Original)** A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:
  - 3       (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyer; and
  - 4       (b) means mounted on an upper surface of the base for gripping the cartridge.
  
- 1    2. **(Original)** A moveable pallet firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:
  - 3       (a) a base having a lower surface seating on a conveyor; and
  - 4       (b) means mounted on an upper surface of the base gripping the cartridge.
  
- 1    3. **(Original)** A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:
  - 3       (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyor, and an upper surface having an elongated cartridge region;
  - 5       (b) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first side of the cartridge region, said first lip member being biased toward the cartridge region and having a lip extending from the lip member into the cartridge region; and

9                             (c) a second cartridge-retaining lip member mounted to the base on a second side  
10                          of the cartridge region, said lip member having a lip extending from the lip  
11                          member into the cartridge region.

1       4. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 3, wherein the cartridge region is an  
2       elongated slot formed between the lip members for holding the cartridge.

1       5. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 4, wherein the second cartridge-  
2       retaining lip member is movably mounted to the base and biased toward the slot.

1       6. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a gap formed  
2       between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive a tongue that is inserted  
3       upwardly through an aperture in the base and seating against opposing surfaces of the lip  
4       members and displacing the lip members away from the slot.

1       7. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a finger mounted  
2       to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger extending upwardly from  
3       the base for seating in a recess of said cartridge.

1       8. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 7, wherein the lip members are  
2       slidably mounted within chambers formed in the base.

1    9. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 8, further comprising chamber cover  
2    panels mounted to the base over the chambers, said chamber cover panels having upper  
3    surfaces.

1    10. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 9, wherein said cover panel upper  
2    surfaces define seating surfaces for seating against stops and vertically positioning the  
3    pallet.

1    11. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 7, further comprising at least one  
2    tapered cavity formed in the lower surface of the base for receiving a tapered tip and  
3    horizontally positioning the pallet.

1    12. **(Original)** A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as  
2    drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:  
3         (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyor;  
4         (b) an elongated slot formed in an upper surface of the base for holding the  
5         cartridge;  
6         (c) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first  
7         side of the slot, said first lip member being biased toward the slot and having a lip  
8         extending into the slot;

9                   (d) a second cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a  
10                  second side of the slot, said second lip member being biased toward the slot and  
11                  having a lip extending into the slot;  
12                  (e) a gap formed between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive  
13                  a tongue inserted upwardly through an aperture in the base, for seating against  
14                  opposing surfaces of the lip members and displacing the lip members away from  
15                  the slot; and  
16                  (f) a finger mounted to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger  
17                  extending upwardly from the base for seating within a recess of said cartridge.

1       13. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 12, further comprising first and  
2       second chambers formed in the base on the first and seconds sides of the slot,  
3       respectively, said first and second chambers housing the first and second lip members,  
4       respectively.

1       14. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 13, further comprising at least one  
2       tapered cavity formed in the lower surface of the base for receiving a foot for positively  
3       positioning the pallet horizontally.

1       15. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 14, further comprising at least one  
2       vertical registration surface for seating against at least two registration arms for positively  
3       positioning the pallet vertically.

- 1    16. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 15, further comprising chamber cover
- 2    panels mounted to the base over the chambers, wherein upper surfaces of the cover
- 3    panels comprise said at least one vertical registration surface.

Claims 17 - 34 (Cancelled)